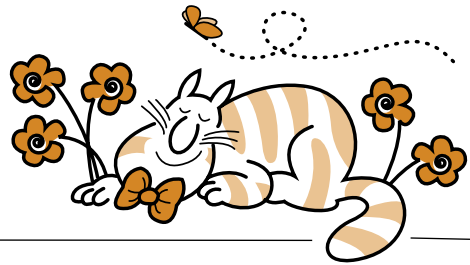


CAT TALES™

Spring 2007



Monarch: Widely travelled & poison

Spring brings lots of signs of new life, but one of the prettiest is fluttering clouds of butterflies, especially the orange and black Monarch common to Ontario.

Monarch butterflies spend their winter “vacations” in Florida, Texas and Mexico, returning to Canada each spring. Not only is this the longest migration of an insect on record, but the butterflies follow the same migration pattern each year, gathering together in huge flocks to make the trip.

The Monarch is sometimes called the “milkweed butterfly” because its larvae eat that weed, and only that weed. If you want to attract Monarchs, you can plant milkweed.

Monarchs have few predators even though they are brightly coloured in both their larval

and adult stages – meaning no camouflage to hide from predators. Toxins accumulate in the Monarch's body from its milkweed diet, making it poisonous, so birds won't eat it.

Female Monarchs lay their eggs on the underside of milkweed leaves. The eggs hatch, depending on temperature, in 3 to 12 days. The larvae feed on the leaves for about 2 weeks and develop into caterpillars about 2 inches long, easily recognized by their yellow, black and white stripes.

After awhile, the caterpillars attach themselves head down to the milkweed, shed their outer skin and begin the transformation into a pupa, which takes them only a few hours.

The pupa resembles a waxy, jade vase and becomes more and more transparent as the process progresses. If you look closely, you can see the insect developing inside! The miraculous transformation into a beautiful adult butterfly – called metamorphosis – takes about two weeks.

The butterfly finally emerges from the now transparent chrysalis and inflates its wings with a pool of blood it has stored in its abdomen.

FAT CAT® JOKES

Q. Why did the boy throw butter out the window?

A. To see the butterfly!

Q. What pillar doesn't hold anything up?

A. A caterpillar!

Q. What's pretty, delicate and wears a black belt?

A. A karate butterfly!

Q. What does a cat go to sleep on?

A. A caterpillow!

Q. Who is the King of the Insects?

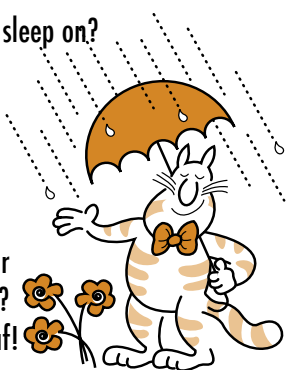
A. The Monarch!

Q. What does a caterpillar do on New Year's Day?

A. It turns over a new leaf!

Q. What's the definition of a butterfly?

A. A caterpillar who's won his wings!



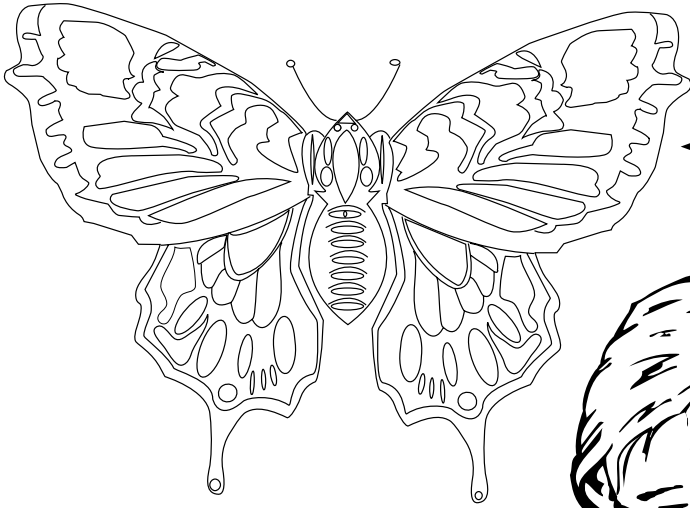
Scales give wings colour

What do fish, moths and butterflies have in common? Scales! Everyone knows that fish have scales, but butterflies and moths? It may come as a surprise to you to learn that the powder-like substance on the wings of moths and butterflies is actually tiny layers of scales. These layers of scales help give butterflies and moths their beautiful color. They also give out a special smell from some male moths and butterflies that make the females like them.

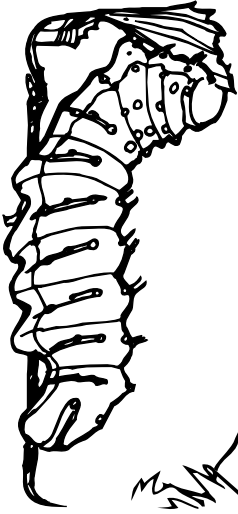
FAT CAT® Fun Page



← Colour the butterfly all the colours of the rainbow!



← Colour the Monarch caterpillar with yellow, black and white stripes!



© FAT CAT Design is a registered certification mark owned by the Credit Union Central of Canada and is used under licence.
™ CAT TALES is a trademark owned by the Credit Union Central of Canada and is used under licence.

Cypress Credit Union

Herbert Credit Union

Innovation Credit Union

Lafleche Credit Union

Mankota Credit Union



Mendham-Burstall Credit Union

Morse Credit Union

Rockglen-Killdeer Credit Union

Sandhills Credit Union

Shaunavon Credit Union

**“Brought To You by the Credit Unions
of Southwest Saskatchewan”**

© HANDS & GLOBE Design is a registered certification mark owned by the World Council of Credit Unions and is used under licence.